

OAKLAND~MAPLEVILLE FIRE DISTRICT OPERATING COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes MARCH 25, 2015

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Oakland~Mapleville Fire District Operating Committee was called to order at 7:08 pm on March 25, 2015 in the district fire station at 46 Oakland School St. Oakland by Bob L'Esperance, Moderator.

Present: Mike Cosetta, Richard Nolan, Peter Leone, Leigha Joyal; Commissioner Tom Demers, Warren Steere; Chief Joe Bertholic and Clerk Anne Chretien

Guest: OMFD Capt. Mike McGrane

Absent: Patricia St.Pierre, Albert Lavigne, and Ed Bertholic

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 2015 meeting were sent to all members for review prior to posting on the RI Secretary of State's web-site.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting were waived and accepted.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.

Unanimously voted "Aye" by all present.

B. Commissioners Report

- The fire station roof has sustained damage due to the fact that it was shoveled off numerous times because of the amount of snow that had accumulated on it. There are holes in the roof that need immediate attention. Two of the gutters are also broken. Discussion followed that the roof repair takes priority over anything else that needs attention. Tom Demers will find out if any of the damage is covered by our insurance.
- Two bids were received for putting up heated gutters around the building. Tom Demers showed a cut-away example of a possible gutter replacement. He is still waiting for a third bid to be sent to him.
- Tom Demers mentioned again that he intends to build a roof of the entrance door for the office side of the building.
- Someone suggested to Tom that an interior door is needed in the hallway. To prevent anyone from just walking into the rest of the building. This door would be secure during the time the office is open for tax collecting purposes.
- Motion to accept the Commissioners Report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Leigha Joyal.

- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all present.

C. Chief’s Report

- Runs for the month were 61. (See attached report.)
- We are averaging 4 persons per run.
- New report shows number of runs with Nasonville.
- Engine 11 – the rear compartment is still not repaired. A representative is suppose to come down from Triple M Plastics of Kennebunkport, Me on Monday to complete the repairs. The hose bed of the truck has a problem-diamond plate around the hook may need to be replaced.
- Asked by Leigha Joyal when the weakest point for district coverage was, Chief Bertholic responded that is was Saturday. He is considering in the future to staff with per diem people, especially with summer approaching. The concern would be that the volunteers would not be available to respond.
- Motion to accept the Chief’s report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Pete Leone.
- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all present.

D. Tax Assessors Report

- Abatement was granted for JVH Builders, because the business has been dissolved and the amount of tangible taxes was \$172.47. There is no way the district could collect these taxes.
- Motion to accept the Tax Assessors report was made by Pete Leone and seconded by Richard Nolan.
- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all present.

E. Tax Collectors Report

- Collections from 9/1/2014 to 08/31/2015 which includes current and prior year taxes, and interest and fees totaled \$331,455.92 as of March 19, 2015. Outstanding balance to be collected is \$67,235.88. See attached report.
- Tax Sale List - The list of tax payers who are two years or more delinquent were presented to the committee. Fifty-one properties. A final notice bill will be mailed on March 26, 2015 to these fifty-one tax-payers notifying them of the upcoming tax sale. The tax sale is scheduled for July 30, 2015.
- Motion to accept the Tax Collectors report was made by Mike Cosetta and seconded by Pete Leone.

- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all present.

F. Treasurers Report

- All bills are paid and up-to-date.
- As reported in last month’s meeting, the supplier for electricity, Constellation Energy, was supposed to be paid through National Grid. Apparently there was a change in the billing by Constellation and for a couple of months we will be billed separately by them. The billing will revert back through National Grid and then we will only have the one bill
- Mike Cosetta questioned the Reconciliation Discrepancies amount of \$22,921.74. Clerk will check with Patricia St.Pierre, Treasurer.
- Motion to accept the Treasurers Report was made by Leigha Joyal and seconded by Pete Leone.
- Unanimously voted “Aye” by all present.

G. Old Business

- By-Laws committee met and progress is being made on revising the by-laws for review by the Operating Committee before the annual meeting in September.
- Forestry Truck Update- The truck is still in the paint shop at the ACI. The wheels for the truck are in, and so are the tires. Tom Demers and the Chief are go to the ACI on Monday, March 30, 2015 to check on the progress. Once the truck is at the station, bond that could be saved by waiving it because we will be paying for the truck in full when it is received and accepted by us. Once the truck arrives in Attleboro from the factory it will be inspected and then the truck goes to Eastford to have a suspension system upgrade.
Discussion was held about the possibility of borrowing a portion of the money. No decision was made. The truck should be delivered by mid-June.
- Storage/Training Building Update- Materials have been ordered for the construction of the building now that most of the snow around the containers has melted. We should receive delivery shortly. Colin Fenner is team leader of the construction crew.
- NML Ins issue tabled until next month.
- Roof Ice Dams- Discussed under the Commissioners Report.
- RI House Bills 5343, 5344 & 5345 – Representative Cale Keable attended the meeting and discussed the unlikely possibility that these three bills will pass. He listened to the committee’s concerns and answered questions. He feels it would be good to periodically meet with the fire districts in his area to discuss their concerns. He will stand strong against these bills.

H. New Business

- Third-Party Billing – Capt. Mike McGrane address the issue of updating fee schedules for billing purposes. He commented that The Dawson Group, who handles OMFD Billing for rescue runs, automatically updates the fee schedule. He stated that what is new is that you can now bill for treatment at the scene without transporting to the hospital. This would have to be handled directly with the person treated by The Dawson Group, which may cause issues. A sample letter was reviewed. (see attached). It was agreed that this is not the direction the department should go in for now. We may look at it in another year.
- Town wide meeting of Fire Districts – discussed group purchase of supplies; each district fighting against the passage of RI House Bills 5343, 5344 & 5345; annual meeting with town Reps & Senators; joint training; hose testing. The next meeting will focus on manpower.
- Contingency Plan – discussion involved developing a plan to be prepared for unforeseen issues in other districts, re: coverage.

I. Public Comment

- None

J. Notifications and Announcements

- April 11 & 12, there will be a free Recruitment & Retention seminar in Bristol, RI at no charge. Chief Bertholic will forward details to the committee members.
- Chief Bertholic is now president of the State Firefighters League. He will attend a seminar this weekend for NEVFEC in Concord, NH. Discussions about how the 6 New England states can help each other, training, etc.
- Motion was made by Mike Cosetta to send a donation to Between the Cracks of \$250. in memory of John Obuchon, Patricia St.Pierre's son-in-law who died in an accident last weekend. The motion was seconded by Leigha Joyal.
- Unanimously voted "Aye" by all present.

K. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 pm was made by Leigha Joyal and seconded by Mike Cosetta.

Unanimously voted "Aye" by all present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Anne Chretien, Clerk